COTTON CHATS

DRAPER COMPANY, HOPEDALE, MASS.

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By the Secretary of the
DRAPER COMPANY,
HOPEDALE, MASS.

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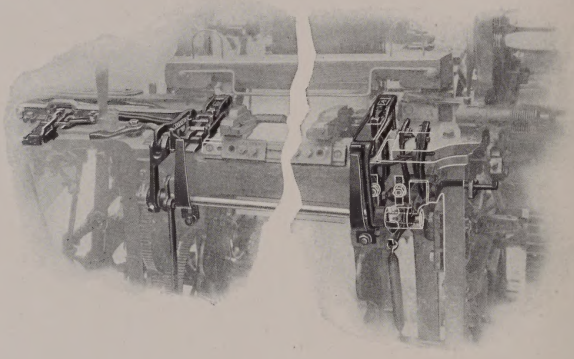
IN THE COTTON BELT.

We are entering on the most perplexing business year of the last decade—a period to be noted by extreme caution on the part of buyer and seller alike. Most mills will show a handsome profit in their yearly balance sheet but many of them are quite short of cash wherewith to finance cotton purchases or carry cloth. The coming of a Presidential election complicates the outlook. We are reminded of that trite, yet pertinent saying, "Cheer up, the worst is yet to come!" but might also quote the more cheerful answer given one who, in a long period of rain, wondered if it would ever clear up. "It always has!" was the reply given.

It **will** clear up—not necessarily now, not necessarily this six months—but eventually, unless American people have lost their ability, their ingenuity and their pluck. Better times can only come by the growing confidence which

gradually puts more and more money into circulation by employment of labor and purchase of products. We, as builders of machinery, can not employ labor unless we have orders. Specifications vary so much it is impractical to get out either whole machines or parts of machines in advance of orders. It is the consumers, the merchants, the cotton mills, who must, each in turn make purchases before we shall be able to help by circulating more pay-roll. We trust that possible customers will not long delay in view of the prevalent embarrassment.



THE DOUBLE FORK.

In our attempt to produce perfect cloth on automatic looms we soon discovered that one fork on one side of the cloth could not possibly protect against all contingencies where minor defects assumed importance in view of the uses for which the goods were intended. Two forks can prevent thin places by governing the take-up from either side of the cloth, detecting absence of filling as soon as it is apparent by the shuttle leaving the cloth without laying filling. Two forks also provide protection against any error in working of either fork singly.

Our cut shows the double fork on a feeler loom, the parts in black relief being feeler, (starting at left) left fork, right fork and feeler thread cutter. This combination can be set to change a bobbin on breakage of weft or stop the loom as desired. The present mechanism is much simplified as compared with our earlier devices for the same purpose and is giving great satisfaction wherever used.

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We are glad to know by letter and samples that the present cotton crop is making good, strong yarn. Our new standard breaking strength table, published last year, was made up on 1906 cotton and proved far too high for its weak staple. Further trial alone will show whether it is too high for an average crop. We have made many yarn tests for customers recently which showed better than our new standard.

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In my December trip South I saw two weavers each running 48 Northrop Print Looms assisted by one child each not paid by the mill. As the small help might have earned wages by doffing or spinning, it is fair to consider their possible wages as a part of the weaver's earnings; but the fact proved that one weaver **can** piece up warp and remove cloth for 48 Northrop looms besides attending to the various oversight and adjustment within a weaver's province.

The goods were 64-60, the cuts were 55 yards, the loom speed 186, the hours 62. I looked up the weaving records and saw that the production was as follows for the months of October and November:

Henry Strong		Jim Berger
14 days Oct.	565 cuts	647
13 days Oct.	483	552
12 days Nov.	511	486
12 days Nov.	552	509
51	2111	2194
	41 cuts per day	43 cuts per day.

The price paid for weaving was 7 cents per cut—note the length of the cuts. Fall River pays 23.96 cents on common looms for cuts considerably less in length.

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Some think the Northrop loom will wear out rapidly. At Tucapau there are 320 Northrop looms which have al-

ready run 12 years and for two years at night at that. In the flood of 1903 some of them were under water but they are still running, **and they will continue to run.**

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In sending out some thousands of souvenirs, calendars, loom catalogues, etc., during the last month, we did not wish to burden the recipients with the necessity of acknowledgment or thanks. We have, however, received a great many very pleasant letters, from which we would be pleased to quote, if modesty permitted. There is one in particular, so well worded and significant that we do print it as an illustration of recognition.

"*Dear Sirs:*

In compliance with your request upon the face of this card and in grateful recognition of your distinctive, considerate generosity, I am pleased to acknowledge with appreciative thanks, the receipt of a handsomely bound and lettered Diary and card case from your own Good-selves.

Wishing for you a Cornucopia of Prosperity for the New Year, I am, with the compliments of the Season!"

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In a recent exhibition of 500 calendars the judges awarded Draper Company Third Prize—for usefulness. We are glad to think our calendar should be considered so useful—we think it fairly ornamental as well.

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Although we have heard reports of Northrop looms running with repair and supply bills as low as $1.50 per loom per year, we do not always have a chance to check up the actual conditions. While South recently, I did go over the books of a prominent mill in order to get the comparative cost of running two different models of looms, each of which had been running several years in large quantity. By taking the actual cost of the repairs and supplies for several months, I found that one lot of 38 inch looms showed an expense of $2.01 per year for all repairs, **shuttles, belts, and strapping included.** Another model, 28 inch looms, showed $2.06 per year.